



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/607,675	06/30/2000	Robert B. Ogle JR.	P1025	1245

24394 7590 06/02/2003
LARIVIERE, GRUBMAN & PAYNE, LLP
1 LOWER RAGSDALE, BLDG. A, SUITE 130
P.O. BOX 3140
MONTEREY, CA 93942

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CUONG QUANG

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2811

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/607,675

Applicant(s)

OGLE ET AL.

Examiner

Cuong Q Nguyen

Art Unit

2811

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 14-16, 18, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The limitation " spacer structure comprises.....SiGe " in claims is made claims un-enablement because it is known in the art SiGe is a conductive material and the spacer being formed of SiGe would electrically connected the silicon layers (P2) and (P2) together, so the memory device does not work .

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi (US 6,559,494) in view of Cho et al. (US 6,027,971).

Taniguchi discloses a semiconductor memory device comprising : a silicon substrate (1) including a periphery memory region (A) and a core memory region (B); a transistor formed on the peripheral memory region; one set of dual gate core memory structures formed in the core memory region , the dual gate core memory structures including a stacked layer arrangement of semiconductor layer (6) and a dielectric material layer (9) defining respective sidewall; sidewall spacer structures (11) of silicon nitride having a thickness of 800 angstroms (Taniguchi's col.7 lines 59-61) formed on the sidewall portions of dual gate core memory structures; a coating residing also formed of silicon nitride layer (11) on the periphery memory region to provide a pattern (the gate stack of the transistor) on the periphery memory region. See Taniguchi Fig.20.

Taniguchi does not explicitly teach that the silicon nitride for forming spacer structures (21) have the chemical formula of Si_3N_4 .

Cho et al. discloses a semiconductor memory device comprising: a dual gate core memory structure (62) formed in the core memory region; a sidewall spacer structures (68) formed on sidewall portions of the dual gate core memory structures, wherein the sidewall spacer structure formed of silicon nitride (Si_3N_4). Cho's Fig.8A and col.5 lines 63-67.

It is known in the art and also taught by Cho that silicon nitride is usually preferred to Si_3N_4 in semiconductor device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to form sidewall spacer structures of silicon nitride (Si_3N_4) as taught by Cho et al.

Art Unit: 2811

It is noted that, claimed structure and structure formed by the combination of Taniguchi and Cho are identical, such that both structure include sidewall spacer structures formed from silicon nitride (Si_3N_4 , an anti-reflective coating material) with the thickness of 800 angstroms. Therefore, it is inherent that, the sidewall spacer structures in above combined device is also capable to protect the stacked layer arrangement during etching operations and is compatible with ion implantation and salicidation fabrication process as claimed device.

When the structure recited in claims reference is substantially identical in structure or composition, or are produced by identical or substantially identical to that of the claims, claimed properties of functions are presumed to be inherent. *In re Best*, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977). 1990).

The expressions "dual-purpose" and "being used for lithographic patterning for protecting said stacked layer arrangement during etching operations" In claims 1, 4, 14, 17, 19 and 21 are considered as intended use limitations and are not considered towards patentability. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentability distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

Response to Amendment

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 14-21 have been considered but are moot in the new ground of rejection.

Applicants argue that none of the applied arts teaches that the spacer structure serves a dual purpose as claimed. In response, as discussed in previous action and above, the limitation "dual-purpose" is considered as an intended use limitation which is not considered towards patentability. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentability distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

Conclusion

4. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology center (TC) 2800 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to TC 2800 via the TC 2800 Fax center located in Crystal Plaza 4, room 4-C23. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The Group 2811 Fax Center number is (703) 308-7722 and 308-7724. The

Art Unit: 2811

Group 2811 Fax Center is to be used only for papers related to Group 2811 applications.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or any earlier communication from the Examiner should be directed to CUONG Q NGUYEN whose telephone number is (703) 308-1293. The Examiner is in the Office generally between the hours of 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time) Monday through Thursday.

6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor TOM THOMAS who can be reached on (703) 308-2772. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7722 or 308-7724.

7. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center Receptionists whose telephone number is 308-0956.



Cuong Nguyen

Primary examiner

5/27/03